

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, the Examiner objected to the abstract of the disclosure because it is not limited to a single paragraph. Claims 6-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C §112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. Claims 6-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,407,756 to Sontag et al. ("Sontag"). Additional art was cited of interest.

In accordance with the present response, the specification has been suitably revised to correct informalities and bring it into better conformance with U.S. practice. Independent claims 6 and 23 have been amended to further patentably distinguish from the prior art of record. Claims 6-10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 23-25 have also been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, in formal respects to improve the wording, and bring them claims into better conformance with U.S. practice. New claims 26-33 have been added to provide a fuller scope of coverage. A new abstract which overcomes the objection and which more clearly reflects the invention to which the amended and new claims are directed has been substituted for the original abstract.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that the objection to the abstract has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of his application in light of the following discussion.

Brief Summary of the Invention

The present invention is directed to an analyzer system.

As described in the specification (pgs. 1-3), conventional analyzer systems are difficult and time consuming to operate because a large number of operational steps are required in order to perform an analysis procedure. For example, in order to handle a variety of users, the conventional analyzer systems require a user interface with detailed settings for each analysis procedure.

The present invention overcomes the drawbacks of the conventional art. Figs. 1, 3 and 5 show an analyzer system according to the present invention embodied in the claims. The analyzer system, which is either built-in to an analyzer or separate from and connectable to an analyzer, has at least one analyzer software program 4 for at least one of controlling the analyzer to perform one or more analysis procedures and analyzing results output by the analyzer. At least one job information 8 (e.g., user interface setting information 5; function call information 6; or output format information 7) is set in advance and corresponds to a specific

analysis procedure. The analyzer software program 4 is configured to confirm the existence of and read out the job information 8. A job 3 comprises data linking the job information 8 to the analyzer software program 4. Job representing means (e.g., an icon comprised of an icon name and an icon image file) 1 represents the job 3 on a display. Job launching means 2 launches the job by launching the analyzer software program 4 through the job representing means 1 to perform an analysis procedure.

By the foregoing construction, the analyzer system according to the present invention is simplified as compared to the conventional art because it provides at least one job information (e.g., user interface setting information, function call information, or output format information) corresponding to a specific analysis procedure which is set in advance, and because the analyzer software program is configured to confirm the existence of and read out the job information. For example, as described in the specification, an input dialog box is customized in advance in accordance with a specific analysis procedure. When the specific analysis procedure involves the measurement of a melting point, for example, the dialog box which is customized in advance is as shown in Fig. 3. Without advance customization, a dialog box as shown in Fig. 4, for example, is instead

displayed. The dialog box shown in Fig. 3 is clearly more simple than the dialog box shown in Fig. 4. Thus, an analysis procedure using the analyzer system according to the present invention embodied in the claims can be performed more quickly efficiently as compared to the conventional art.

Traversal of Prior Art Rejection

Claims 6-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sontag. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and submits that the teachings of Sontag do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in amended claims 6-25.

Amended independent claim 6 is directed to an analyzer system which is either built-in to an analyzer or separate from and connectable to an analyzer. The analyzer system requires at least one analyzer software program for at least one of controlling the analyzer to perform one or more analysis procedures and analyzing results output by the analyzer, and at least one job information set in advance and corresponding to a specific analysis procedure, the analyzer software program being configured to confirm the existence of and read out the job information. Amended claim 6 further requires a job comprising data for linking the job information to the analyzer software program, job representing means for

representing the job on a display, and job launching means for launching the job by launching the analyzer software program through the job representing means to perform an analysis procedure. No corresponding structural and functional combination is disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record.

Sontag discloses a graphical user interface for a logic analyzer. The purpose of Sontag's invention is to provide a simplified clock configuration selection by consolidating all clock selection functions onto a single screen (col. 5, lines 42-46). However, Sontag does not disclose or describe at least one job information corresponding to a specific analysis procedure which is set in advance, as recited in amended claim 6. In this regard, Sontag provides a simplified clock configuration selection by allowing a user to input clock information in a graphical user interface displayed on a single screen (i.e., the input clock information is input by the user and is not set in advance).

Moreover, Sontag does not disclose or suggest an analyzer software program configured to confirm the existence of and read out the job information, and job launching means for launching the job by launching the analyzer software program through the job representing means to perform an analysis procedure, as recited in amended claim 6.

Amended independent claim 23 similarly distinguishes from Sontag. More specifically, amended claim 23 requires at least one job information set in advance and corresponding to a specific analysis procedure, the analyzer software program being configured to confirm the existence of and read out the job information. No corresponding structural and functional combination is disclosed or suggested by Sontag as set forth above for amended independent claim 6.

Claims 7-22 and 24-25 depend on and contain all of the limitations of amended independent claims 6 and 23, respectively, and, therefore, distinguish from the references at least in the same manner as claims 6 and 23.

Moreover, there is a separate ground for patentability of amended dependent claim 7 which includes the additional limitation that the job representing means is an icon comprised of an icon name and an icon image file. No corresponding structure is disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 6-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sontag be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 26-33 also patentably distinguish from the prior art of record.

Claim 26 depends on and contains all of the limitations of amended independent claim 6 and, therefore, distinguishes from the prior art of record at least in the same manner as amended claim 1.

New independent claim 27 is directed to the combination of an analyzer system and an analyzer for performing an analysis procedure and outputting results corresponding to the analysis procedure. Claim 27 requires that the analyzer system has an analyzer software program for at least one of controlling the analyzer to perform the analysis procedure and analyzing results corresponding to the analysis procedure output by the analyzer, at least one job information set in advance and corresponding to the analysis procedure, a job comprising data for linking the job information to the analyzer software program, job representing means for representing the job on a display, and job launching means for launching the job by launching the analyzer software program through the job representing means to perform the analysis procedure. No corresponding structural and functional combination is disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record as set forth above for amended independent claim 6.

Claims 28-33 depend on and contain all of the limitations of independent claim 27 and, therefore, distinguish from the prior art of record at least in the same manner as claim 27.

Moreover, there are separate grounds for patentability of new dependent claims 28 and 33 which include the additional limitation that the job representing means of the analyzer system is an icon comprised of an icon name and an icon image file (claim 28) and that the analyzer software program is configured to confirm the existence of and read out the job information (claim 33). No corresponding structure is disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and discussion,
the application is believed to be in allowable form.
Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the
claims are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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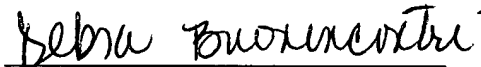
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Signature

September 14, 2004

Date